

FIRST STEPS TO WEB CREATION IN DREAMWEAVER CS4



Dreamweaver is a commonly used tool for the creation of websites by developers and casual users. Dreamweaver allows the user to create a website with tools to insert text, images and multimedia elements that are saved as HTML pages and then published to the Internet.

Overview

In this tutorial you will learn how to:

- Save images from the Internet
- Create a new document in Dreamweaver
- Modify text
- Insert images into a webpage
- Create hyperlinks
- Insert Tables
- Link pages together

REMEMBER

Websites are a family of files that must all live together to work together. Websites are contained in a folder that houses all of the .html files you will create in Dreamweaver, image files (jpg, png, gif) that you will either save from the Internet or create yourself, and additional media files that will be covered in later tutorials.

ORGANIZATION

Keeping your files organized and named properly from the get-to will keep your project (and your brain) organized. Make sure to save all of your files with lowercase letters, numbers and, if you choose, either a 'dash' or 'underscore' character. Examples: daisy_01.jpg & citations.html
If you already have files that you wish to work with, it is a good idea to organize and rename them before you begin inserting them into your website.

LET'S GET STARTED!

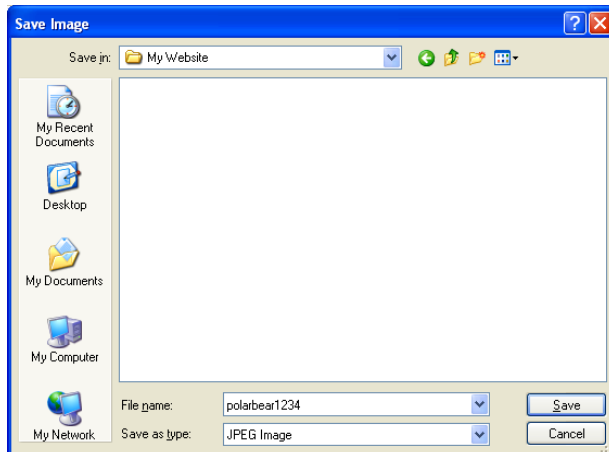
STEP 1 ::: SET UP: Create a folder for your project. ALL files are to be saved here. Go to your desktop and create a new folder with your name.

**If you are working with multiple projects, each project would be contained in its own folder.*

STEP 2 ::: Search For & Save Graphics

Creating unique graphics is a great idea. However, lots of royalty free images exist all over the Internet. Here is one great resource: <http://www.pics4learning.com>

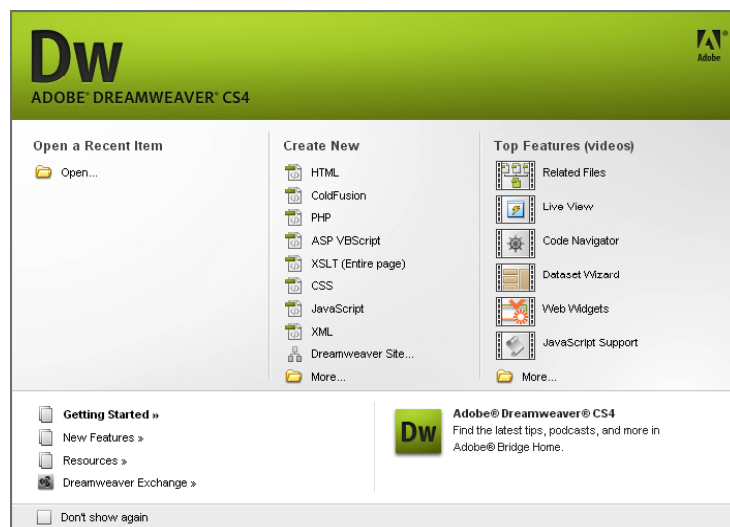
1. Go to website and search for an image of an animal
2. Scroll through thumbnails (smaller versions of images organized on one page)
3. Click on a thumbnail to enlarge to view full-size picture
4. Right-click on graphic*> Save picture as... **
5. Save graphic to your project folder... *all images must be saved here!*



* Be aware of where your computer is saving the images. Some websites have a 'Download' button that does not allow you to choose where you want that file saved. Sometimes files will be placed in a 'Downloads' folder or a 'My Pictures' folder.

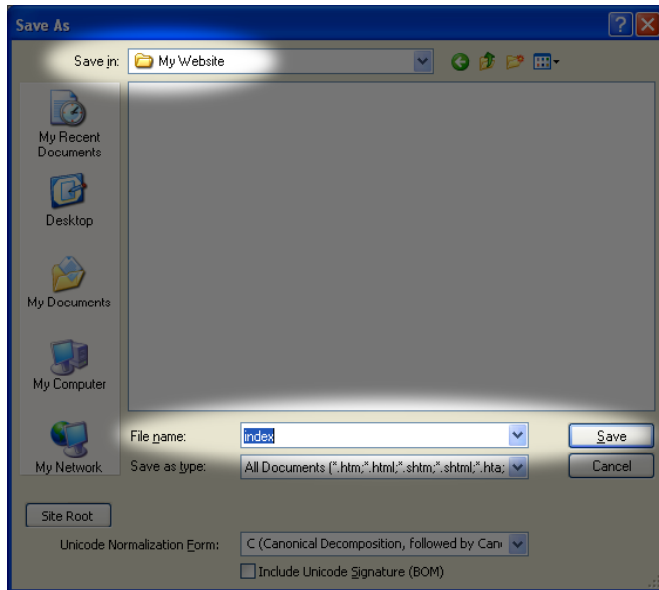
** Rename your graphics to be descriptive, for example:
polarbear01.jpg

STEP 3 ::: Launch the Dreamweaver Application



Choose: Create New > HTML

STEP 4 ::: Build the Home Page



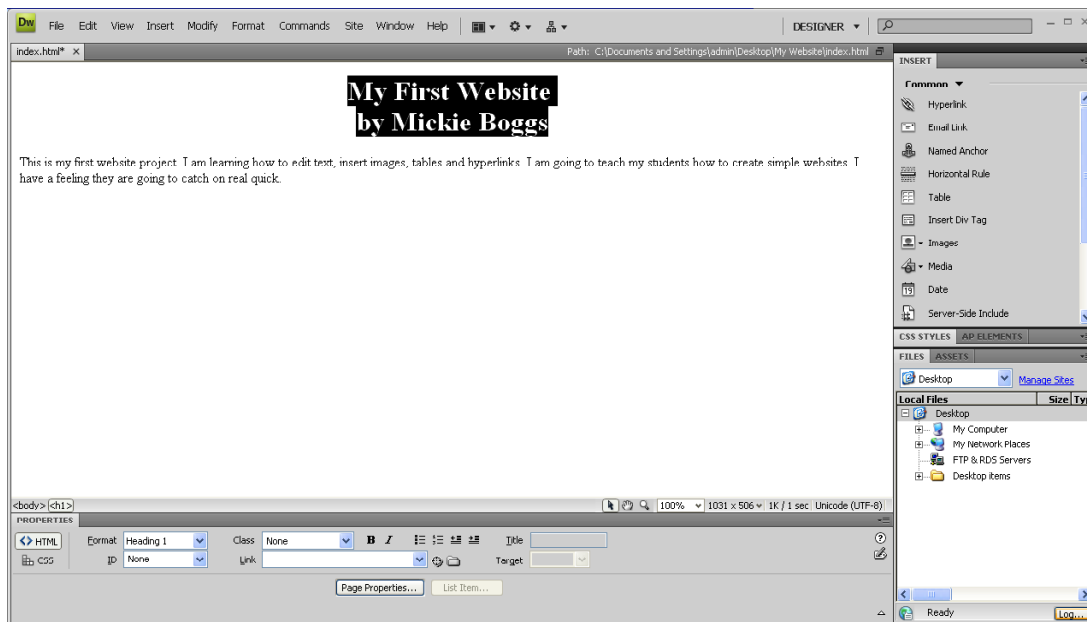
*The “home” page of your website is always named “index.html”.

Never use capital letters in the name-~~Index.html~~ or ~~INDEX.html~~.

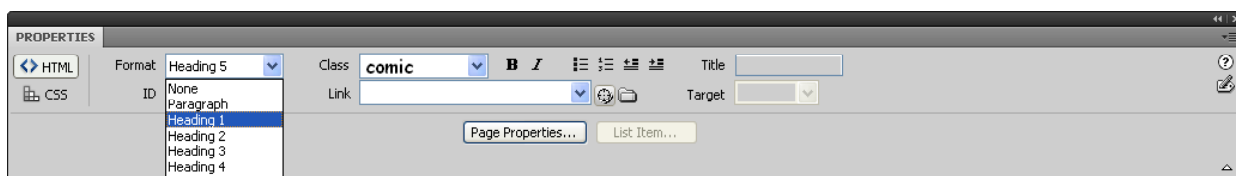
Save page:

1. Drop-down menu File > Save
2. Locate your project folder
3. File name: index.html

STEP 5 ::: Type a title for your page, your name and thoughts about teaching.

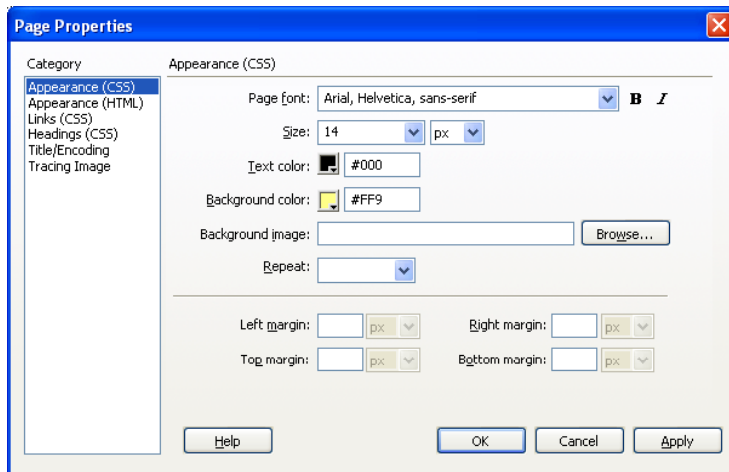


STEP 6 ::: Customize the look of your text by selecting the text you want to change and adjusting the font, size, style, alignment and color in the Properties Window.



STEP 7 ::: Align Your Title to the Center of the Page

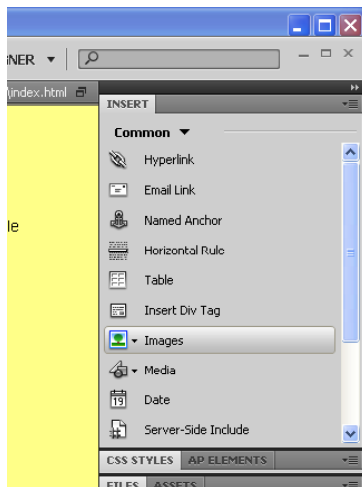
Go to the “Format” drop-down menu > Choose “Align” > Choose “Center”



Change background color:

1. Go to Properties Menu
2. Click “Page Properties”
3. Change Background Color

You may also change the default font color and style for your page.



STEP 8 ::: Insert An Image

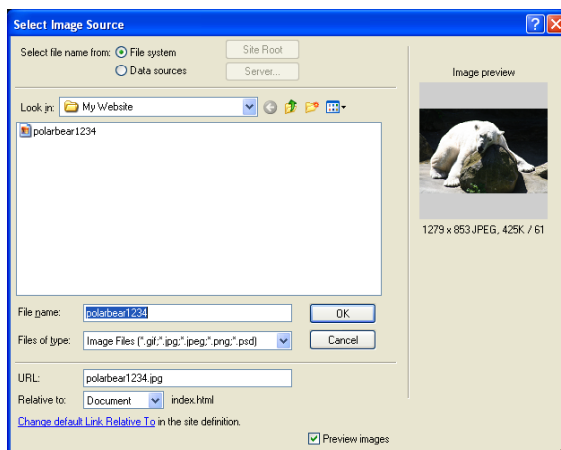
Option A:

Drop-down menu Insert > Image

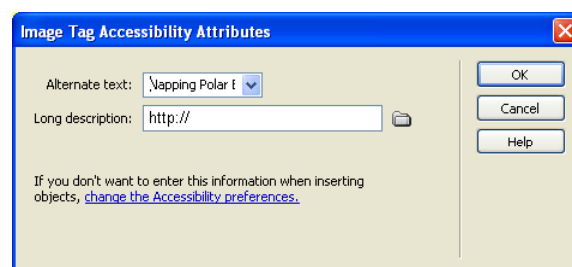
-or-

Option B:

Go to “Insert Panel” on the right side of your screen
Choose “Images”



STEP 9 ::: Choose image from your folder



The Image Tag dialogue box creates a title for your image. Website readers for the visually impaired use this text to provide a description of the image.

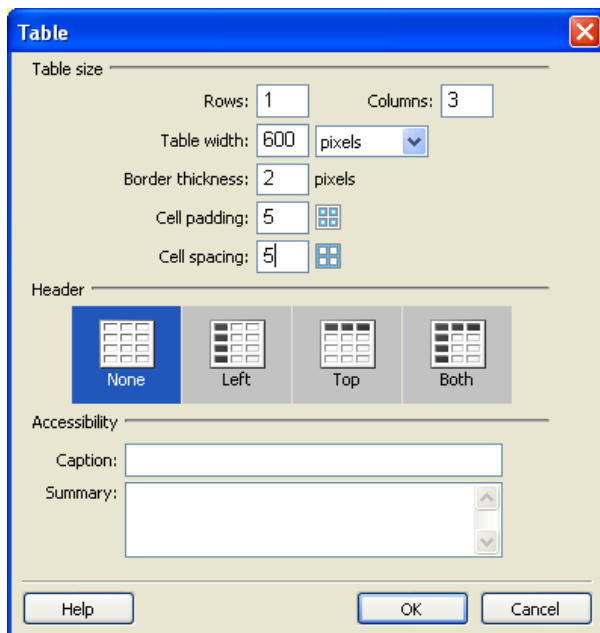
STEP 10 ::: Resize image in the Properties panel or by dragging**

***This is a practice project to teach the functions of Dreamweaver. For real projects, you will be using an image editor to resize your images... we'll save that tutorial for another day!*

This is a good time to SAVE your work!

STEP 11 ::: Insert A Table

Next you will create a table that will become the navigation area of your website.



Position cursor under your image.

Drop-down menu Insert > Table...

Adjust the following values:

Rows: 1 Columns: 3

Width: 600 pixels

Border thickness: 2

Cell Padding: 5

Cell Spacing: 5

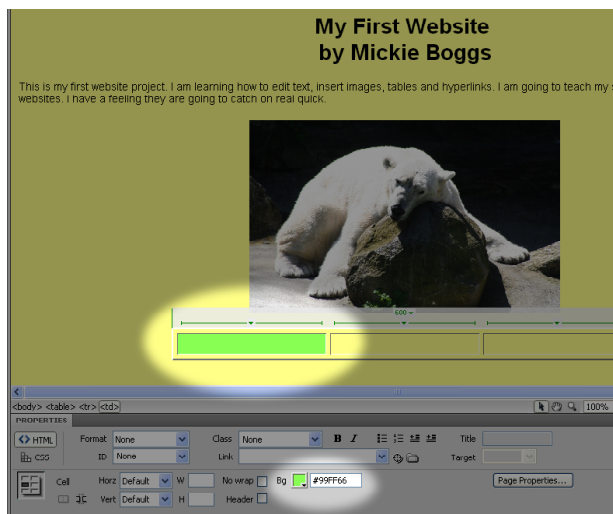
Tables are made up of cells that are organized vertically in columns and horizontally in rows.

The cell padding refers to the margin within the cell that keeps text and images from touching the edge.

The cell spacing refers to the space between each cell.

When you're experimenting with this tutorial later, see what happens when you change these values.

STEP 12 ::: Align table to Center in Properties panel.

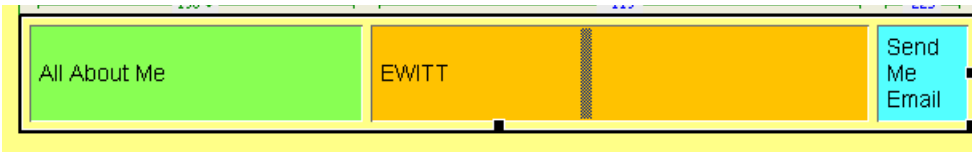


Change the color of each cell

1. Click within the cell and change the color in the Properties panel
2. Change each cell to a different color

STEP 13 ::: Add and style text to each cell

1. Place the cursor into the cell you where you want the text.
2. Type in each cell*: All About Me, EWITT, Send Me E-Mail
3. Drag across all cells to select text.
4. Center text in Properties Menu.
5. Change text properties: size, font and alignment of the words... not the color**

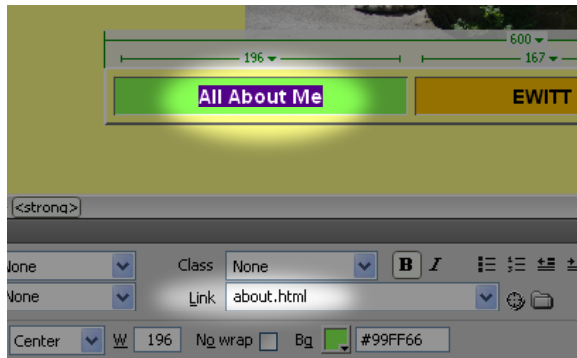


* The cells will oddly adjust size as you type into them. Don't be alarmed; you can adjust the cells after you've finished typing. Just click and drag on the border you wish to adjust.

** The color of the words will automatically change when you turn them into hyperlinks.

STEP 14 ::: Link Pages Together

This is where the magic happens. We will turn your table into a functioning menu bar by linking the text in each cell to their appropriate page. There are INTERNAL hyperlinks that will connect to any HTML file in your folder. There are also EXTERNAL hyperlinks that will connect to any website in cyberspace. Make sure to include the "http://" when linking to an external site.



1. Select the text "All About Me"
2. Click in the "link" area of the Property Window
3. Type: about.html *

*You're linking to a page that does not yet exist. Later in the tutorial, you will create a new page and save it as "about.html". Then, this link will open that page when clicked.

STEP 15 ::: Repeat process to continue adding links to the other cells:

4. Select the text "EWITT"
5. Click in the "link" area of the Property Window
6. Type: <http://enhancingwriting.wikispaces.com>
7. Select the text "Send Me E-Mail"
8. Click in the "link" area of the Property Window
9. Type: <mailto:youremail@email.com>
OR you can go to the drop-down menu Insert > Email Link

SAVE!

STEP 16 ::: Test Your Skills- Create a Second Page!

1. Go to <http://pics4learning.com> and find an image of a plant, flower or tree.
2. Save image to your project folder.
3. Go to Dreamweaver and open a new document:
Drop-down menu File > New > HTML
4. Save: about.html * to your project folder
5. Change the Page Properties
6. Type a couple sentences about yourself and your interests
7. Change the look of the text, center title and the color of the background
8. Insert the image
9. Insert a Table for your navigation
10. In the Table type into the cells: Back to Home, EWITT, Send Me E-Mail
11. Hyperlink "Back to Home" to: index.html, the other links are the same
12. Save

** Remember the link we made on the first page... it will now connect to this page, and vice versa when you create the link to index.html to make this page link back to the home page.*



STEP 17 ::: Test Your Site

Now you can preview your pages in a browser.

1. Go to the Desktop and double-click to open your folder
2. Double-click on "index.html"
3. This should launch a browser*

How does it look?

**You cannot EDIT your page while viewing it in your browser; you must go back to Dreamweaver.*

If any of the links do not work**, check:

1. To see if link names are spelled correctly, if there are spaces, etc.
2. You have saved the pages.

**E-mail link will not work in most school locations. Test at home where you have an email client such as Outlook or Mail setup.

STEP 18 ::: CREATE A NEW FOLDER AND DO IT AGAIN... practice makes perfect!!

BUILD ON WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED ::: Adding All The Good Stuff

Now that you have mastered the Basics, experiment with this tutorial.

Here are some ideas:

- Try adding more Rows to your Table
- Use an image for the page background, instead of a color
- Insert graphics for buttons- just select the graphic and Hyperlink
- Insert media like Flash, QuickTime movies, MP3 files

Be sure to write down questions that you encounter as you experiment